

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CCO-00

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P R 071818Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8554

INFO USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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STATE PASS BIB; USIA FOR IOR, IBS, IEE, IWE

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ETEL, ITU, GW, WB, US

SUBJECT: US/FRG MEETING OF MARCH 5-6 IN PREPARATION FOR

SECOND SESSION OF LF/MF REGIONAL BROADCASTING

CONFERENCE

REF: BONN 8518

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. MEETING FOCUSED ON FOUR MAIN ITEMS;  
FRG REPRESENTATION OF US BROADCASTING INTERESTS IN  
BERLIN; US REPRESENTATION AT SECOND SESSION OF  
CONFERENCE OCT/NOV 1975; A LONG WAVE FREQUENCY FOR A US  
TRANSMITTER IN FRG; AND FREQUENCY REQUIREMENT FORMS TO  
BE SUBMITTED BY FRG TO CONFERENCE FOR US TRANSMITTERS.  
BERLIN ITEM COVERED IN REFTEL. GERMAN TEAM CONSISTED  
OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM BUNDESPOST MINISTRY, FOREIGN  
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OFFICE, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,

BERLIN SENATE AND RIAS BERLIN. PRINCIPAL SPOKESMEN WERE KUPPER OF BPM AND JIRKA OF FOREIGN OFFICE. US TEAM CONSISTED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM STATE (EB/TT AND EUR/CE), USIA (VOA, RIAS), RFE, BIB, US MISSION US BERLIN, AFN, USAREUR, AND EMBASSY (POL AND ECON). PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN WAS HUFFCUTT, STATE (EB/TT). MEETING WAS CONDUCTED AT BUNDESPOST MINISTRY, BONN, IN FRIENDLY AND CANDID ATMOSPHERE ON MARCH 5-6. END SUMMARY.

2. FRG DEL KUPPER STRESSED NEED FOR PRESENCE OF SMALL, COMPETENT US TEAM TO ASSIST FRG DELEGATION AT OCTOBER CONFERENCE IN DEFENSE OF US INTERESTS. QUESTION OF FORM OF US REPRESENTATION, OFFICIAL (OBSERVER) VIS A VIS UNOFFICIAL STATUS, WAS DISCUSSED. US REP EXPRESSED OUR INTENTION TO PROVIDE COMPETENT REPRESENTATION ALTHOUGH FORM NOT YET DECIDED. KUPPER EXPRESSED VIEW THAT LEVEL OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY AT CONFERENCE IS NOT LIKELY TO BE INFLUENCED BY MANNER IN WHICH US REPRESENTATION IS EFFECTED. ON BALANCE HE FAVORS POLITICALLY AND TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED OFFICIAL OBSERVER DELEGATION WHICH WOULD GIVE USG AT LEAST LIMITED VOICE IN CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES. FOREIGN MINISTRY REP EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH KUPPER. IN RESPONSE TO FRG QUERY, US REP SAID WE WILL CONSIDER POSSIBLE ACTIONS WE MIGHT TAKE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TO GENERATE SUPPORT FOR US/FRG MUTUAL INTERESTS IN ADVANCE OF CONFERENCE.

3. IN DISCUSSION OF EXTENT TO WHICH REDUCTIONS IN TRANSMITTERS ARE UNAVOIDABLE, US REP MADE FOLLOWING POINTS CONCERNING OUR PRELIMINARY VIEWS. (A) CO-EQUAL TOP PRIORITY MUST BE ACCORDED PRESENT OPERATIONS OF VOA - 1196 K HZ, RIAS - 989 K HZ, RFE - 719 K HZ, AND AFN - 872 K HZ; (B) THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT WE COULD REDUCE PRESENT RIAS COMPLEMENT PROVIDED THAT CHANNEL(S) RETAINED IS (ARE) NOT JAMMED AND THAT REDUCTION SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS THE RESULT OF POLITICAL WEAKNESS. (BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED OPINION THAT THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT WE COULD EXTRACT SATISFACTORY GDR COMMITMENT TO CEASE JAMMING.); (C) THERE IS POSSIBILITY FOR REDUCING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFN'S FREQUENCY COMPLEMENT FROM NINE TO SIX PROVIDED THAT STATIONS DISPLACED CAN BE REACCOMMODATED, PREFERABLY ON REMAINING SIX CHANNELS OR ON VHF-FM. NO REPEAT NO SPECIFICS WERE CITED. US REP STATES THAT DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS WE HAVE NO PROGRAM AT PRESENT FOR AFN CONVERSION TO VHF-FM.

4. MATTER OF LONG WAVE FREQUENCY (LF) FOR US USE WITH

ONE MEGAWATT TRANSMITTER AT ERCHING, NEAR MUNICH, WAS EXPLORED WITH FRG AS AGREED BY "WALDMANN GROUP." BIB REP (BARTLETT) EXPLAINED STATUS AND ROLE BIB AND PRESENTED HIS RATIONALE EXPLAINING HOW 8 KHZ CHANNELING PLAN FOR LF, WHICH WOULD PRODUCE TWO MORE CHANNELS THAN PRESENTLY AVAILABLE, MIGHT ENABLE FRG TO OBTAIN FREQUENCY FOR US USE. FRG REP REPORTED THAT RECENT MEETING OF CEPT/EBU CONCLUDED THAT MATTER OF 8 KHZ CHANNELING FOR LF BAND CANNOT BE FINALIZED AT OCTOBER

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CONFERENCE BECAUSE THERE MUST FIRST BE REALLOCATION OF BAND IN ORDER TO RESOLVE PRESENT SHARING BETWEEN BROADCASTING AND AERONAUTICAL SERVICES. THIS CANNOT BE DONE UNTIL WORLD GENERAL RADIO CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR 1979. FRG ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PARA. 423 OF

RADIO REGULATIONS, WHICH LIMITS COVERAGE TO NATIONAL BOUNDARIES, WOULD GENERATE PROBLEMS SINCE PROPOSED USE OF LF FREQUENCY WOULD CLEARLY SERVE AREA OUTSIDE FRG. US REPS SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED KUPPER THAT DESIRABILITY OF FURTHER USE ERCHING TRANSMITTER IS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY USG AND FINAL DETERMINATION IS EXPECTED SOON. US REPS SAID IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF FRG COULD MAKE KNOWN ITS OPINION CONCERNING SUBMISSION OF LONGWAVE FREQUENCY REQUIREMENT TO CONFERENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (GERMAN SIDE ASKED USG TO SUBMIT ALL REQUIREMENTS TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BY MID-APRIL, AS ITU DEADLINE IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAY 1.) US REPS WERE CAREFUL TO EMPHASIZE USG POSITION THAT SUBMISSION OF LF REQUIREMENT FOR ERCHING TRANSMITTER MUST NOT BE PERMITTED TO JEOPARDIZE IN ANY WAY THE ATTAINMENT OF THE FRG'S OWN LF REQUIREMENTS, WHICH WE RECOGNIZE AS THE FIRST PRIORITY. KUPPER WAS ALSO INFORMED OF BARTLETT'S PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS WITH ARD (ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN BROADCASTERS). KUPPER STATED THAT ARD'S SUPPORT FOR US REQUIREMENT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL, NOTING THAT BPM WOULD DISCUSS MATTER WITH ARD "AND OTHERS" (PRESUMABLY INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTRY) BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TO PROCEED WITH SUBMISSION OF LONG WAVE REQUIREMENT TO ITU. (BPM IS PLANNING MARCH 10 MEETING WITH ARD.) KUPPER AGREED TO INFORM EMBASSY AS SOON AS FRG DECISION IS REACHED. (FYI: IF DECISION IS FAVORABLE, AND IF USG DECIDES TO PROCEED WITH LONG WAVE OPERATION AT ERCHING, REQUIREMENT FORM MUST BE PROVIDED TO BPM SOONEST FOR INCLUSION IN SUBMISSION TO ITU BY FRG'S MID-APRIL DEADLINE. END FYI.)

5. US REP GAVE SITUATION REPORT ON PROBLEM OF AFN-611 K HZ INTERFERENCE TO RADIO SARAJEVO. FRG SIDE AGREED THERE IS NEED TO ELIMINATE INTERFERENCE TO BROADCASTS WITHIN YUGOSLAVIA, BUT EXPRESSED NO REPEAT NO CONCERN OVER INTERFERENCE TO RECEPTION OF RADIO SARAJEVO WITHIN FRG. FRG REP ALSO SAID THAT REPLACEMENT FREQUENCY NOT AVAILABLE FOR AFN NURENBURG. US REP SAID EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE INTERFERENCE WILL CONTINUE AS APPROPRIATE AND THAT FURTHER INFORMATION ON INTERFERENCE LEVELS HAD BEEN REQUESTED FROM GOY AUTHORITIES.

6. FRG SPOKESMAN REVIEWED RESULTS JANUARY CEPT-EBU PLANNING MEETING FOR CONFERENCE. IN VIEW UNFAVORABLE VOTING PATTERN ENCOUNTERED BY WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AT CONFERENCE FIRST SESSION, CEPT COUNTRIES DECIDED NOT TO TAKE INITIATIVE TO ALTER RESULTS FIRST SESSION AND WILL NOT REPEAT NOT PRESS FOR 8 K HZ PLAN AT SECOND

SESSION, UNLESS THIS IS PROPOSED BY COUNTRY OUTSIDE  
CEPT. A NUMBER OF ARAB BROADCASTING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE  
BEEN CONTACTED VIA EBU TO ENCOURAGE THEIR ADMINISTRA-  
TIONS TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING 8 K HZ PLAN.  
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CEPT COUNTRIES DECIDED TO SUBMIT FREQUENCY REQUIREMENTS  
IN ACCORDANCE RESULTS FIRST SESSION INCLUDING 20 K HZ  
BANDWIDTH, ALTHOUGH ACTUAL BANDWIDTH CEPT STATIONS  
APPROXIMATELY 9 K HZ. (FRG REP LATER TOLD US REP  
(JACOBS) THAT WITH BANDWIDTH OF 20 K HZ CEPT HOPES THAT  
ATTEMPT DEVELOP PLAN WILL FAIL.) CEPT COUNTRIES AGREED  
TO SUBMIT REQUIREMENTS ONLY REPEAT ONLY FOR EXISTING  
STATIONS (STATUS QUO), BUT ARE CONCERNED THAT EASTERN  
EUROPEANS MAY SUBMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-EXISTENT  
STATIONS OR FOR LEVELS OF POWER HIGHER THAN STATUS QUO.  
IF THIS OCCURS, CEPT WOULD ALTER POSITION, AND WOULD  
RE-NOTIFY HIGHER LEVELS OF POWER TO PROTECT COVERAGE.  
CEPT ALSO AGREED THAT PROTECTION MEDIUM WAVE COVERAGE  
TO NATIONAL BORDERS AS EXPRESSED IN PARA. 423 OF RADIO  
REGULATIONS, WILL NOT REPEAT NOT APPLY WITHIN CEPT  
AREA. FRG REP REPORTED THAT EBU HAS COMPLETED STUDY OF  
NIGHTTIME SKYWAVE SIGNAL LEVELS WITHIN EUROPEAN AREA  
FROM EXISTING TRANSMITTERS LOCATED OUTSIDE EUROPE.  
RESULTS SHOW THAT FORTY CHANNELS ARE AVAILABLE FOR  
NIGHTTIME USE BY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ON A NON-INTERFER-  
ENCE BASIS. THIS AMOUNTS TO ONLY ONE OR TWO  
FREQUENCIES FOR EACH EUROPEAN COUNTRY. (FYI: MORE  
THAN THIRTY FREQUENCIES ARE NOW IN USE WITHIN FRG.  
END FYI.)

7. A SMALL WORKING GROUP WAS SET UP TO HANDLE THE  
FREQUENCY REQUIREMENT FORMS FOR VOA, RFE, RIAS AND AFN.

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CHANGES WERE MADE TO REFLECT THE 20 K HZ BANDWIDTH AND THE FRG DESIRE THAT THE CENTER OF RECEPTION ZONE SHOULD COINCIDE WITH TRANSMITTER LOCATION. THIS RESULTED IN COMBINING VOA MUNICH BEAMS 1 AND 2, BUT PRESERVING 890 KM MAXIMUM COVERAGE RADIUS, AND IN SHOWING ALL RIAS COVERAGE AS OMNI-DIRECTIONAL. MINOR ADJUSTMENTS MAY BE REQUIRED IN GROUND WAVE COVERAGE SINCE FRG MAY USE LIMITING CONTOUR EQUATION SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT THAN SHOWN IN "PINK BOOK" AND SEVERAL RATHER THAN FIXED SINGLE VALUE OF GROUND CONDUCTIVITY. FRG WILL MAKE ANY REQUIRED REVISIONS, BUT WILL SUBMIT FINAL VERSION FOR USG APPROVAL BEFORE SENDING TO ITU. (FYI: ING. D. STAHL OF RIAS BERLIN WAS A MEMBER OF FRG TEAM AND ASSISTED JACOBS OF USIA IN TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP. END FYI.)

8. UNDER DISCUSSION OF "OTHER BUSINESS," FOREIGN  
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MINISTRY SPOKESMAN REPORTED THAT A REQUEST HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM UK FOR BBC TO FEED PROGRAM MATERIAL BY H. F. FOR RELAY BY VOA MEDIUM WAVE TRANSMITTER AT MUNICH, RATHER THAN BY MORE EXPENSIVE PROGRAM LINE AS AT PRESENT. HE STATED THAT BBC RELAY OVER VOA FACILITY WAS NOT REPEAT NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH FRG-USG AGREEMENT FOR VOA, BUT THAT "FRG WILLING TO OVERLOOK THIS ILLEGALITY IF IT IS NOT CITED AS A PRECEDENT," AND FRG WILL PERMIT BBC TO USE H.F. FEEDS. HE ASKED THAT HIS

STATEMENT BE INSERTED IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING BEING PREPARED BY FRG.

9. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT CRITICAL PRE-CONFERENCE  
PERIOD WILL BEGIN MID-JULY AFTER ITU HAS CIRCULATED  
REPORT OF FREQUENCY REQUIREMENTS. IT WILL BE POSSIBLE  
THEN TO EXAMINE ENTIRE PICTURE AND IDENTIFY PROBLEM  
AREAS. IT WAS AGREED THAT ANOTHER US/FRG PLANNING  
MEETING IS ESSENTIAL FOLLOWING RELEASE OF ITU REPORT.  
FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL IN DUE COURSE SUBMIT SUGGESTED  
DATE TO EMBASSY FOR NEXT MEETING, WITH LIKELY PERIOD  
BEING LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST.

10. THIS MESSAGE REPRESENTS VIEWS OF EMBASSY AND OF  
STATE/USIA REPRESENTATIVES AT US/FRG MEETING.

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## Message Attributes

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